

REMARKS

At the outset, applicants would like to thank Examiner Krishnan and SPE Wilson for their time and consideration at the interview of October 28, 2003 with the undersigned agent. At the interview, the contentions of the outstanding Official Action were discussed.

Claims 9-15 are pending in the present application. Claims 9-15 have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the present invention. Claim 16 has been canceled without prejudice.

In the outstanding Official Action, claims 9-15 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over ALSOP et al. in combination with GREENBERG. It is believed that the present amendment obviates this rejection.

At the interview, applicants were advised to delete the recitation "high" in claim 9, line 2, and insert and phrase "above 4000 Da" after the phrase "molecular weight" substances. Examiner Krishnan and SPE Wilson also advised the applicant to remove the recitation "at least one" in claim 9, line 5.

In the interest of advancing prosecution, claim 9 has been amended to recite a method of reducing the uptake of molecular weight substances above 4000 Da, allergens and microorganisms for the intestinal wall, comprising administering to a mammal in need thereof a nutritional composition containing

a polysaccharide selected from the group consisting of dextrans having a molecular weight of 8 kD to 40,000 kD, hydrolyzed glucomannans having a molecular weight of 0.5 kD to 1,000 kD and hydrolysed galactomannans other than guar gum or hydrolyzed guar gum, having a molecular weight of 0.5 Kd to 1,000 kD, the polysaccharide being present in the nutritional composition only in an amount to cause an increase in the viscosity of the nutritional composition which is less than 10mPa.s. As a result, applicants believe that the contentions of the outstanding Official Action and those raised at the interview have been obviated. Applicants would like to thank the Examiner and SPE Wilson for their suggestions as to how to overcome this rejection.

Claim 16 was rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over ALSOP et al. in combination with GREENBERG. As noted above, claim 16 has been canceled. Thus, it is believed that this rejection has been obviated by the present amendment.

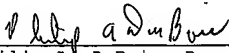
In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, therefore, it is believed that the present application is now in condition for allowance, with claims 9-15, as presented. Allowance and passage to issue on that basis are accordingly respectfully requested.

Application No. 10/089,371  
Amendment dated November 26, 2003  
Reply to Office Action of May 20, 2003  
Docket No. 2001-1027

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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PD/mjr